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HOUSE BILL 74

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAND GRANTS; CREATING A LAND GRANT COMMITTEE;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. LAND GRANT COMMITTEE-- CREATION-- TERMINATION. --

The "land grant committee" is created. The committee shall function from the date of its appointment until December 1 prior to the second session of the forty-sixth legislature.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP-- APPOINTMENT-- VACANCIES. --The land

grant committee shall be composed of six members. The New Mexico legislative council shall appoint three members from the house of representatives and three members from the senate. At the time of making the appointments, the New Mexico legislative council shall designate the chair and vice chair of the committee. Members shall be appointed to give the two major

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1 political parties in each house the same proportionate
2 representation on the committee as prevails in each house;
3 provided, however, that in no event shall either of the parties
4 have less than one member from each house on the committee.
5 Members may be removed from the committee by the New Mexico
6 legislative council at the request of the committee chair for
7 nonattendance according to council policy. Vacancies on the
8 committee, however caused, may be filled by the New Mexico
9 legislative council, or the council may reduce the size of the
10 committee by not making replacement appointments and in that
11 case need not readjust party representation. No action shall
12 be taken by the committee if a majority of the total membership
13 from either house on the committee rejects the action.

14 Section 3. DUTIES--REPORT. --

15 A. After its appointment, the land grant committee
16 shall hold one organizational meeting to develop a work plan,
17 budget and schedule of meetings for the ensuing interim. The
18 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
19 legislative council for approval.

20 B. Upon approval of the work plan and budget by the
21 New Mexico legislative council, the land grant committee shall:

22 (1) study existing law regarding land grants
23 and develop legislation to improve existing law;

24 (2) gather testimony from land grant heirs
25 from across New Mexico to acquire an understanding of the

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1 issues and concerns facing them;

2 (3) gather testimony from other community
3 groups and state agencies to understand the relationship
4 between land grant heirs and other property owners in New
5 Mexico; and

6 (4) work in conjunction with the Guadalupe
7 Hidalgo task force.

8 C. The committee shall report its findings and
9 recommendations for the consideration of the second session of
10 the forty-sixth legislature. The report and suggested
11 legislation shall be made available to the New Mexico
12 legislative council on or before December 15 preceding the
13 session.

14 Section 4. STAFF.--The staff for the land grant committee
15 shall be provided by the legislative council service.

16 Section 5. APPROPRIATION.--Twenty thousand dollars
17 (\$20,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
18 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year 2003
19 for the purpose of paying the salaries and expenses of
20 technical, legal and clerical staff; for purchasing equipment
21 and supplies; and for reimbursing the per diem and mileage
22 expenses of the land grant committee members pursuant to the
23 Per Diem and Mileage Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered
24 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert
25 to the general fund.

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